

A 31
Seasonable VVord,
O R A
VV O R D
I N
S E A S O N:

Soberly proposed to the Consideration
of all such whose hearts are affected with those
Floods of Reproach and Blasphemy, which the Cause
of God in these Nations labours under.

And may serve, not only as a Remembrancer of
Things past, (stammeringly hinted at) and a Call to
Repentance for mis-improvement thereof.

But may prove, a Word of Encouragement to some
whose Hands may be weakned in the Faith and Hope
of the Work of this Day, *Psalms* 78. 7.

M I C A H 4. 10, 11, 12.

*Be in pain and labour to bring forth, O Daughter of Zion, like
a Woman in Travail; Thou shalt dwell in the field, thou shalt
go into Babylon, THERE shalt thou be delivered, THERE
the Lord will Redeem thee from the hands of thine Enemies.*

L O N D O N, Printed in the Year, 1660.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some faint smudges and discoloration, particularly along the edges, suggesting it is old. There is no text or other markings on the page.



A Seasonable VVord,

O R A

VVord in Season:

Soberly proposed to the Consideration of all
such whose hearts are affected with those Floods of
Reproach and Blasphemy, which the Cause of God
in these Nations labours under.



When Israel went out of Egypt, the House of Jacob from a People of a strange language: Judah was his Sanctuary, and Israel his Dominion. The Sea saw it, and fled; Jordan was driven back, The Mountains skipped like Rams, and the little Hills like Lambs. Psalm 124.

When the Lord turned again the Captivity of Zion, they were like men that dreamed. Then was their mouths filled with laughter, and their tongues with singing: among the Heathen it was said; the Lord hath done great things for them. Psalm 126.

*These things (among others) happened to them for Ensam- 1 Cor. 10.
ples, or types; and are written for our admonition, upon whom*

the ends of the world are come: That we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope.

From a serious observation of the grand Mutations which have befallen in these Islands, who can but stand amazed, and wondering say, What hath God wrought?

It is too evident and apparent, unto what a low-ebb the Cause of God in these Nations was brought, as it stood in the evidence and witness against *Popery*, and *Popish* Innovations, (according to the measure of the Light which was then communicated:) as also to what an heigh the Adversaries thereof were arived, endeavouring by all possible means the supplanting and extirpation thereof, under the notion of *Puritanism*; branding the Assertors thereof with terms of *Phanaticks*, *Puritans*, *Brownists*, with other such like; Superstition and prophaneſs countenanced and encouraged; and whoever in all this whole Nation durſt depart from Iniquity, made himself a prey, the dark Corners of our Earth, being full of the habitations of Cruelty; the Whippings, Pilling, Stigmatizing, Gagging, Banishing of some Persons (then eminent for their Testimony) are fresh in memory, which occasioned great and strong Cryes to be poured out before the Lord night and day, that he would arise and visit his Remnant, and plead the Cause of his People, and set them at Liberty whom the wicked had snared; that he would break the jaws of the wicked, and pluck the spoil out of his teeth.

And though the Kingdomes Liberties were greatly infringed, yet the subject matter of those many Supplications which were put up to God, were for and on behalf of his Name, and People, in relation to their Soul-sufferings, which he most eminently had respect unto, and made it his concern to rebuke the oppressors, and set the Captives free; taking occasion and advantage from the very contrivances of the Adversary, and in the very same matter wherein they intended to deal proudly and subtilly, he was above them.

Idem Mag Hist.

As in many other things, not now so particularly remembered; the *fatal Coal*, (as a late Writer calls it) which afterwards became a great Fire in the three Kingdomes, (as then called) began to be kindled in the Year, 1637. by a design

sign upon the *Kirk of Scotland*, about the *Liturgy*, which was then sent down thither under pretence to make a conformity of Church Worship and Ecclesiastical Government, between *England* and *Scotland*; Prelacy being now Rampant and in its dignity, both here and there.

But this Book of *Liturgy*, or *Common-Prayer*, or *English Masse Book*; instead of effecting an Uniformity as was intended, The *Bishop* who endeavoured to read it in his Pontificalibus, was assaulted with Crickets, Stools, Sticks and Stones, from Men and Women, to the hazzard of his life; and from this poor contemptible disorderly Ryot or Mutiny, so accidentally happening, being in it self but a Cloud like an handbreadth, but had in it a noyse of much Rain; It was a Coal indeed raked up in embers, contemptible enough in its appearance, and one would have thought might have been easily quenched; but it appearing to be the House of *Jacob*, wherein this Coal was kindled, and the House of *Joseph* which thus became a flame; how should the House of *Eſau*, who were but stubble, stand before devouring fire? as the sequel hath manifested.

Hence it came to pass, that instead of quenching this fire the Nobility & Ministry publicly avowed their detestation of that Book; and when it was re-inforced by a *Proclamation* at *Sterlin*, and the punishment of Treason denounced against the Persisters in the former proceedings; this also availed not to allay this heat, but the fire burnt hotter and hotter, as indeed well it might, for the Lord was in this fire.

This *Proclamation* was accosted by a Protestation of the Nobility, Ministry, and others of that Nation, which grew suddenly into a solemn Covenant, for defence of their Religion and Liberties, which begat no small rage in the Author of that *Proclamation*, but it availed not: thus this fire began, brake forth, and continued.

Further endeavours were used for the dawbing of it, but you know who kindled it, and it would not be put out.

Hambleton is sent down to *Edenborough*, to deal with the Covenanters to renounce their Covenant, but avails not; He causes *Proclamation* to be made; to forbear to press the reading

ing of the *Service Book*, but that would not now do the turn, the fire had got too much hold, the differences grew greater and greater.

A War is designed, an Army raised to subdue the *Scots*, the Earle *Arundel* made General; but this threatened War proceeded not, but through mediation of some Lords on both sides, a pacification was made and declared, *June 18. 1639.* and the Armies on both sides retreated home peaceably, and the fire seemed to be put out, but it was but raked up in the embers, for it was impossible, &c.

The King returning to *London*, after a short time changed his mind from his thoughts of peace, and commanded by *Proclamation* the Paper which the *Scots* avowed to contain the Conditions of the Pacification, to be burnt by the hands of the Hang-man; Now the fire began to break out again.

In *December*, the King propounds a *Parliament*, to begin in *April* following, the People wonder! however on *April 13. 1640.* the *Parliament* began, Money is required, viz. twelve Subsidies, to go on with a designed War against *Scotland*; divers Speeches were made against the grant of Subsidies, till they first had some grievances redrest, and particularly, that the People had no reason to pay for a War which they desired not: however they took the Subsidies into consideration; but while they were debating, on the fifth of *May* they were dissolved.

Nevertheless the Convocation of *Divines* (so called) they were continued, and made Canons, and imposed upon the Clergy the *Oath Etcetera*, so notoriously remarkable at that time and since.

The Clergy contributed great Sums of Money toward this War, so did the *Papists*; besides what other means was used for defraying the charge of this War; The Earle of *Strafford* commanded in chief.

But of all things remarkable, this may not be forgotten, That the hearts of the Soldiers were turned against many of their Officers, and Commanders, and could not be brought to engage against the *Scots*; but on the contrary, they turned Reformers in their passage to *York*, pulled down *Papish* Pictures,

June 18. 1639.

Parliament began, April 13. 1640.

Dissolved May 5.

Bellum Episc.

Private Soldiers made Reformers.

stones, brake down Rails, turned Altars into Communion Tables, for that in effect this proved no considerable War neither, but by mediation of some *English* Lords, this War was composed also upon Articles: and upon the desire of the same Lords, the King resolved to call a *Parliament* at *London*, to begin the 3^d. of *November*, 1640. which he accordingly did: Now would not any one think, that this would have proved the perfect cure of all the former Malladies, & that the fire so strangely begun in *Scotland*, would have been extinguisht by the moderation, as well as by the mediation of *England*? But the Lord having given it a commission it must burn, till all the House of *Edom* be devoured, and that there be none remaining of the House of *Eſau*, for the Lord hath spoken it, *Obad.* 17, 18.

Upon the 3^d. of *November*, 1640. Assembled a *Parliament*, which continued many years, (by some called the *Long Parliament*, by others the *dateless Parliament*) being by *Act* of *Parliament* continued, till they should by an *Act* of *Parliament* be dissolved.

In their beginning and progress, they were men to be wondered at, to see how they were acted.

Our Souls were filled with amazement at the things which we saw the Lord by them was visibly doing for this poor afflicted Nation, rendring it as a spectacle of astonishment to all our Borders the neighbour Nations round about us, such was then our case, as that when we knew not what to do, nor what to desire to have done for us; yet having our eyes up to him, who leads the blind in wayes which they know not, we saw him apparently leading our *Parliament*, our Steersmen, into untroden paths and wayes, putting them upon actions unforeseen, unprojected, yea unthought of, fulfilling herein that good Word of his, *Iſa.* 42. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

In the Management of these Affairs, we were given to understand more distinctly and particularly (in observing the course the Lord took for us, in stating our Controversie,) that he was arisen in *England* also, as well as he had already begun in *Scotland*, to avenge the quarrel of his Covenant against Antichrist, and that he had set himself by way of eminency against

Hierarchy. gainst the two main Props of his Kingdome, viz. *Hierarchy*,
Monarchy. and *Monarchy*, as being his two main Posts and Pillars in
England, Scotland, and Ireland, and such as by which he ex-
 alts himself in his opposition against the Kingdome of Christ :
 and for as much as by those two, the *Religious* and *Civil* Li-
 berties of his People, both as Men and Christians had been un-
 der great violation, the Cry of the Oppressed as under both
 considerations had found access unto him, and he was come
 down to deliver them; In the prosecution whereof, he furni-
 shed his People with some lesser measures of light and spirit for
 his work, encouraging their hearts, and strengthening their
 hands, as well *Representors*, as *Represented*, taking into his
 work the hearts and hands, lives and estates of men as men,
 causing herein that word to be fulfilled, (*viz. The earth to
 help the Woman,*) each one in measure prosecuting his intrest,
 and concernment, (as the History of our Times will declare)
 Though therein also the counsel of the Lord lay deeper than
 the appearance.

Hierarchy. As touching the former of these, viz. *Hierarchy*, how
 wonderfully did the Lord set himself against it, by causing to
 be detected the prophane and scandalous, corrupted and cor-
 rupting *Clergy*, beginning at the Toes and Feet, Claws and
 Feathers of this fowl Beast, in so much that whole Centuries
 of them were cast out as abominable Branches; Nor did he
 cease there, till he had made the head of this *Hydra*, or many
 headed Beast, viz. the *Prelates*, who although they had built
 their nests amongst the Stars, and seemed to be out of reach of
 human power; yet even these he made to tumble themselves
 down headlong, and they fell as lightening from Heaven, cast-
 ing themselves out from their Seats as untimely fruit, by their
 aspiring Vote; when (besides those who were Impeached for
 their personal Crimes) so many of them were expung'd the
 House of *Peers*, even by occasion of that very Vote, whereby
 they purposed to have establisht themselves in their *Parlia-
 mentary* Capacity, as some time before they endeavoured to
 have done in their Convocation, by their monstrous *Etcetera
 Oath*: but in both Capacities, *Civil* and *Ecclesiastical*, where-
 in they thought to have dealt subtilly and proudly, the Lord
 was above them.

Who

Vide Mr.
 Whites Century
 of scandalous
 Ministers.

Who could have thought that ever the most high God had had such a work to have effected in our dayes, until we saw it done? We expected that it should have proceeded from the *Smectynians*, but the Lord found out another way, even by the work of their own hands, *Higgaion, Selah.* Psalm 9. 16.

Thus God brought down this high Tree, Root and Branch, so far as it stood in visible opposition to the Kingdome of Christ; not only by detecting the Scandalous and Prophane, by parcel and piece-meal; but set himself against the whole body and headship of the *Hierarchy*, by necessitating the *Parliament* to the utter abolishing thereof, and engaging themselves and the whole People of the Land by Covenant against it: *And added to this*, he caused this Scarlet coloured Harlot to be whipt and stript, by bringing upon the *Parliament* a necessity to expose the Lands formerly appropriated to Bishops, Deans and Chapters, to sale, and to be distributed among the People: Thus making bare her skirts and rendring her unlovely, fulfilling in some measure that word of Prophecie, *Rev. 17. 16.* These shall hate the Whore, and make her desolate and naked.

Nor was this all, but *Monarchy* it self, that grand capital *Monarchy* Corner Stone of the Kingdome of Antichrist (upon which the former did depend) against this also did the Eternal and most high God set himself, and gave his People light and faith in this work (causing it to spring up out of obscurity:) And through many difficulties led them on from step to step, and made them follow him in paths wherein he had himself first trod, thereby to bring about his work, his strange work, far above the expectations of his People, whom he employed in effecting thereof;

For as much as the *Parliament*, being (at the utmost) but affected with the common grievances of the Nations, as men spirited for that work, endeavoured the obtaining remedy therein as their ultimate end; and certainly they would have acquiesced, if once they could have arrived at it, applying themselves accordingly for removing thereof;

In all their Addresses to the *Monarch*, distinguishing between him & his *evil Council*, endeavouring to render him free

from any culp or blame : yet the most High (having other ends above the sight and reach of men) mingled a perverse spirit in him and his *Counsellours*, hardening his and their hearts (in order to his further work) inſomuch that he was not ſuffered to hearken to the juſt complaints preſented by the *Parliament* on behalf of the People , but became obſtinate to his and their ruin , who adhered unto him ; ſuffering him to withdraw himſelf from the *Parliament* , and to raiſe Force againſt them , endeavouring thereby to repel their juſt demands.

The Controverſie came to be ſtated, and the Peoples rights aſſerted under theſe three general Heads, among others,

Viz. } The Power of Levying Money.
 } The Power of the *Militia*.
 } The Negative Voyce.

The iſſue whereof was the total Deſeat of his Forces, after ſeveral ſignal Battels, together with that wonderful Act of juſtice done upon himſelf, thereby bringing down this high Tree alſo, not only in his own Perſon, as a *Monarch* accountable for his perſonal tranſactions; but alſo *Monarchy* it ſelf; whence proceeded thoſe *Acts of Parliament*, *Jan. 30. March 17. and 19. 1648. and May 19. 1649.*

By all which the Power became the Peoples, and a foundation was laid for a Free-State or Common-wealth, without a King, ſingle Perſon, or Houſe of Peers; and the People engaged in purſuance of their late Conqueſt, to purſue and maintain the ſame accordingly : Adding further the expoſing to ſale, the Revenue formerly appropriated to the Office of King-ſhip, having firſt readred the ſame Office Unneceſſary, Chargeable, and Dangerous.

Object. But if any ſhould Object, *That theſe Actions were but the iſſue of force and fraud, and are not to be juſtified as Parliamentary, and therefore that it is not ſafe to entitle God thereunto.*

Anſw. It may be Answered, That had it been only the effect of the *Parliament*s Conſultation and Reſolution, there might have remained ſome doubt upon the hearts of ſome, (though others were more clear therein.) But

But to make it evident to all persons, that it was not the device of man, nor the effect of his contrivance, but the arm and power of God: It will be necessary to consider besides what hath been already expressed, (touching the rise and progress of those wonderful mutations) how marvelously the same hath been confirmed by remarkeable and signal testimonies, such as may not, ye cannot be denyed by any man; our enemies themselves being judges; not to mention all those memorable Series of transactions both by Land and Sea, as well in *Ireland* as in *England*, from and after the Year, 1648. nor the sharp conflict with *Hollander*, nor the issues thereof, wherein the Lord so manifestly appeared to the silencing of the adversary, that he extorted acknowledgments from themselves, while he made them say in these or the like words, What God is like the God of *England*? What God like the God of the *Round-heads*? according to that saying, *Psal.* 126. 2. *Then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them:* But,

To reduce much into a little, let be remembred those two notable eminent and remarkeable contests, the *Parliaments* Forces had with the *Scots* at *Donbar* and at *Worcester*, that by the mouth of these two witnesses instead of many more, this assertion may be established.

When the *Scots* (in order to the re-investing the Son of the late King, and in him to have re-established *Monarchy*) attempted the effecting thereof by force of arms, it is well known that after solemn appeals to God for decision of the controversy between the two nations, wherein not singly the person of the Son of the late King, nor the family of the *Stewarts* was the ground of the quarrel, but *Monarchy* it self, as appears by the Declaration of the Army at their marching into *Scotland* in the year 1650. wherein among other things they assevered, *That they fought against Monarchy, as being perswaded in their consciences that it was one of the ten horns of the Beast.* And say further in the same declaration unto the *Scots*, viz. *That if they shall proceed to bring in such a Government as one Man or King upon us, they will blot out the memory of their former meritts.*

Sept. 3.
1650

Upon this state of the difference, they on both sides made their appeals to God; who was pleased to decide the controversy, and gave issue, for and on behalfe of the weak, the faint, and the feeble; against the mighty, the strong, and the valiant, in that notable conflict at *Dunbar*, Sept. 3. 1650.

Sept. 3.
2651

Add further, That when the same cause was prosecuted by the *Scots* a second time upon their march into *England*, by the contrivance & assistance of such as were confederate with them in that undertakeing; how did the Almighty appear for, and on behalfe of his cause and people at *Worcester*; and added a further rebuke and discomfiture to *Monarchy* it self, (which at that time also was about to be re-inforced) making an irreparable breach upon the adversary, as the history of that period of time, more at large will explicate.

Not only in those two eminent cases, wherein he who runs may read the finger of God as clearly against *Monarchy*, as before against *Hierarchy*; but ever since those times notwithstanding there hath been a starting aside and a departure from those blessed footsteps of God, in not following fully to know & do his further will: but strong inclinations, yea and as strong attempts and endeavours also to go back into *Egypt*, hankering after the onyons and garlick thereof; hastning to lay the foundation and to rear the superstructure of the ruined wals of *Jericho*, which God had so signally blasted with a curse to him and his seed, who should attempt the rebuilding thereof, in the person and family of the once famous and renowned General of the *English* Armyes; laying I say the foundation for *Monarchy* and *Hierarchy*, under the disguise of a *Protector*, and an high Commission Court of Tryers, &c. which must have proved in short time a King and Prelates; to which were added that which followeth, viz. an House of *Petres*, with much more of like --

Yet these all received a seasonable rebuke from the Lord who in due time caused them to melt away as a snail; or as the untimely birth of a woman that might not see the Sun, before the pots could feel the thorns, he took them away by a whirlwind, seasonably in due time; and as it pleased him in the midst of their blasphemous *Hosannas*: Upon the whole mar-
ter

ter considering what disappointments have attended all projects, both of force and fraud which have been exercised towards the re-erecting the Throne of the Beast in *England*; in those two notable branches above recited, so eminently declared against by God, as being the great posts and pillars of Antichrist.

As it is a confirmation of the truth asserted, so it is a ground of future expectation, that God will cause his own work to revive in the midst of the day of this great rebuke and blasphemy, which his name, people, and cause, are exposed unto.

The long or dateless Parliament { so called } (which begun in *November* 1640. and by which so many memorable things had been transacted,) having been interrupted, and discontinued six years and upwards, viz. from *April* 20. 1653. to *May* the 7. 1659: by the *General* and *Army*, were now after many debates, and much agitation in order to a future settlement, Invited by the same *Army* to return to the exercise of their trust; who accordingly did so upon the 7th. of *May* as above, to the great comfort and satisfaction of many, whose eyes and hearts were upon them for good, expecting some wonderful and notable thing to be the issue of this strange and unexpected revolution; that having been as men free among the dead, they were certainly now anointed for some signal service, and that the work of the Lord which had as the Sun upon the dial of *Ahaz* gon back so many degrees; would now be revived, and that Justice and righteousness would henceforth dwell in our land: This hopeful expectation was strengthened, not only by their brief yet pious declaration, but a Resolve which was made on the ninth of *May*; which cheered the hearts of many, hoping that the time was now come wherein all that truly feared God without partiality should be countenanced and encouraged, and called out of their holes, into which they were either forcibly driven, or had voluntarily retired themselves, during the interval of the *Parliaments* interruption: But alas these hopes soon vanished, for a few dayes discovered, that neither the *Army* had right ends in inviting the *Parliament* to return; nor that the

the *Parliament* was so resolved upon a speedy settlement of the *Nations*, as their necessity required, nor were so faithful to their own declaration and resolve, as was expected.

Hereupon the Lord to awaken both *Parliament* and *Army*, stirred up the spirit of the Nation against them by that general insurrection intended from all quarters, but distinguished by the name of Sir *George Booths* insurrection, which was the only party that appeared, but was as soon dispersed, and suppressed by a party of the *Army*, with very small and inconsiderable losse of men on either side; insomuch that it was reputed a bloodless victory: God hereby shewing what he could do in enlarging or restraining the spirit of the Nation as he pleased: The effect of this dispensation was so far from improving either *Parliament* or *Army* in the furthering of the settlement expected, that it produced a quite contrary effect; for upon the return of the Brigade from the pursuit of *Sr. George Booth*, they propose the settling of the conduct of the *Army* in the hands of General Officers: The *Parliament* on the contrary resolve to be *General* themselves, and to give Commissions with limitations; this begets dissatisfaction, and jealousy.

The *Parliament* declares the Lord *Lamberts* Commission void, with eight other *Field Officers*, and settles Commissioners for the government of the *Army*, from *October 11* to *Feb. 12. 1659*. Hereupon the *Parliament* becomes again to be interrupted by the *Army*, and so remained from the *12th. of October* to the *26th of December* following, during which interval, many agitations were used for their restoration, by vertue of the powers vested in the new Commissioners for the *Army*, some of them going to *Portsmouth*, and from thence influencing some part of the *Army*; the Fleet declaring for their restoration, and the Forces in *Scotland* doing the like, they returned with a very high hand upon the *26th. of December, 1659*. Being thus returned they soon fell upon changing the conduct of the *Army*, not only confirming their resolution, touching the nine Officers as before, but made a very great progress towards all such as had any way abetted, and assisted in their interruptions, putting from them with great severity all or most of their true interested and engaged friends against the common adversaries.

Thus

Thus strangely and wonderfully hath God wrought in rebuking the pride and Apostacy of the Army, who having been unsteadfast in their declared and avowed resolutions, so solemnly made, and so often repeated : the just and holy God hath in his due time called it to remembrance, and caused it to be returned upon them ; even by those very persons over whom they thought they had power.

Nor was the condition of the *Parliament* at all better by this transaction, for that very Spirit which they raised to suppress this of the Army, was too great for them to allay : but as apparently over-grew them, as theirs did that of the Army, and that also for want of those whom they had unnecessarily put from them.

For the interest of the (so long) Secluded Members, began now effectually to revive, and they by the assistance of the Army which came out of *Scotland*, were brought into the House, who for want of an *English* Army, could no longer be kept out.

And by the access of these later Members, their period was hastened, and the *Parliament* dissolved by an Act. Thus hath it happened through the overruling power of God, that fire is gone out from *Abimelech*, and hath devoured the men of *Shechem*, as fire came forth from the men of *Shechem*, and devoured the household of *Abimelech* ; so true is that word, *Psal. 9. 16. The Lord is known by the Judgment which he executeth, the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands, Higgsion Selah.*

Object. But by this means the cause of God, and of his people in these Nations is wholly lost, and an opportunity is given to the enemy to blaspheme his name, and to say, where is now your God ?

Ans. It is true, that this day is a day of great rebuke and blasphemy, and it's as true that the people upon whom Gods name hath been named, have very much contributed thereunto, whether we respect the *Parliament* or Army, or the persons who have been influenced by both, *Conjunctim aut Divisim* : Who ever shall take a view of the transactions of affairs from, and after that signal battel fought in the Year, 1651.

the

the issue whereof was by the then general stiled, *The marvellous Salvation wrought at Worcester*; at which time, it might have been expected that the fruit thereof, could not have proved other than holiness unto the Lord, and justice and righteousness to the Nation; 'tis true indeed, the blame was laid upon the *Parliament*, that they improved not the mercies and deliverances God had given to the Nation by their means, and they were worthy of blame before the Lord, who to rebuke their remissness let loose that Spirit upon them which gave them their first interruption, in the Year, 1653. though under a more plausible pretence than the effect manifested, for as much as that *Parliament* being then removed from being a let as was pretended, who could have thought but that now righteousness would have ascended the Throne, and whatsoever had been amiss in the former, would have been corrected and amended in this latter Edition; but it was too evident that the change was not for the better but for the worse, as the next succeeding (almost six years time will evidence,) how were all the former mercies and deliverances which God had wrought for this Nation, and his people therein wholly perverted by the power and influence of the Army; who set up their General as single Person, and chief Magistrate contrary to their own Declarations and solemn engagements therein, and thereby departing from their faith, breaking their own Bonds, and casting their Coards behind them, wherewith they had voluntarily bound and obliged themselves. And this not as a transcient Act forcibly or fraudulently extorted from them, but by a Series of transactions renewed and repeated from the Father to the Son, to whom they became more solemnly devoted if possible, than they had been to the Father, this being a creature of their own forming; which evidently declares they did not account themselves surprized in their first compliance, for if so, they would never have made their bonds stronger by renewing their Oaths and Obligations undesired and unfought for.

But as well it prospered, and as long it lasted, and as true were they to their last as to their former Oaths, they take occasion to destroy the creature of their own creating, notwithstanding

standing they had engaged to live and die with him : All which workings of their God hath brought upon their own heads, as well Army as *Parliament*, and the friends and allies of both, rejecting all our confidences which were placed in either of them.

And although shame and confusion of face belongs to us, and unto those on whom we have leaned, who have proved to us, (especially of latter times.) but *Egyptian* reeds on whom while we have leaned, they have pierced into our hand, and now we are ashamed of our confidences, and of those on whom we have (too much) depended : and must say, the Lord our God hath put us to silence, and given us the water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against him ; and this is it while we hear the enemy blaspheming daily, saying, where is now their God ?

Nevertheless we know the foundation of the Lord stands sure, and with him is no variableness nor shadow of change ; And though we must bear this present rebuke from the Lord, because we have sinned against him, yet he will arise and plead our cause ; and cause his work to revive in the midst of the day of this rebuke and blasphemy ; yea though for our unworthiness, and the unworthiness of our Rulers, *Civil* and *Military*, and for their and our non-improvement of our mercies and deliverances, he may justly turn us down to the place of Dragons, & suffer our carcasses to fall in the wilderness where in we are wandering, and make us know what we have done in not following on to know him, whose goings forth are prepared as the morning : yet seeing he hath not left himself without witness, in that he hath frustrated all the attempts both secret and open, and not permitted any project or device which hath been set on foot toward the bringing back his work, to prosper, though there have been many (and they also) craftily contrived, and vigorously prosecuted, yet their drivings have been like the drivings of *Pharaohs* Chariot, very heavily, and with reasonable disappointments : what remains then, but that we humble our selves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt us in due time, acknowledging that although we have been yea, and nay, yet our God is yea ; who when we

have born and accepted of the punishment of our Iniquity, he will not cast away nor abhor his remnant to destroy them utterly, but in measure he will debate with them; for the Lord will judge his People, and repent himself for his Servants, when he seeth their (hand) or power is gone, and there is none shut up or left: Therefore what he said in another case, *Judg. 11. 24.* to the King of the Children of *Ammon*, *That which thy God Chemosh gives thee, wilt thou not possess?* So whomsoever the Lord our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess: So must we say in like case, we dare not be so untrue unto our God, the true and living God, as not to assert with all humble boldness, (yet with Christian Courage and Confidence) the intrest and right we have in what our God hath given us, both as Men and Christians, as the fruit of much Blood and Treasure, which he suffered not to be spile and spent for nought, or as a thing in vain; when so many dear and precious to him, and as Instruments in his hand for the purchasing and obtaining thereof, have sacrificed their lives in the high places of the Field.

Wherefore seeing God hath honoured us with giving and confirming to us, a glimpse of, and an entrance into our **Civil** and **Religious** Liberties, both as Men and as Christians, in freeing us from *Monarchy* and *Hierarchy*, above and beyond our thoughts, and contrivance or projection, and kept them down from their seats thus long, notwithstanding their strong endeavours to be peeping and creeping up under hidden forms and guises; yea seeing he hath laid the Axe to the root of both these Oaks of *Bashan*, and hewen them down, making useless and ineffectual all the endeavours which have been hitherto for the re-establishing the Old, or suffering the New dignified Plants to take root and grow, but followed them with successive disappointments.

Let us in all humble Reverence fall down before him, bewailing our iniquity, and the iniquity of our Leaders, and Rulers, praying that our and their sins may be pardoned and purged; and then say with an holy and humble confidence, *Awake, Awake, put on strength O Arm of the Lord, Awake as in the dayes of old; Art thou not it that bathest Rahab, and*

wounded

wounded the Dragon? We will remember thee from the Land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites; and from the Hill Missar; And though we are apt to say, *Oh Lord, by whom shall Jacob arise, for he is small?* Yet dare we not say a confederacy with them who say a confederacy; nor may we fear their fear, nor be afraid; The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge; who though he hath smitten us, will revive us, and we shall live in his fight, *Maugre* all the malice and rage of the enemy: The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all those who take pleasure therein. What therefore he hath so signally owned, we must own, and cannot do other, till he himself cut off the entail of our hopes and confidences, which we understand is not otherwise to be done, than by giving testimony against the same Cause in the Contest, if ever it come to be cast upon him for decision by an Appeal; which it is humbly prayed he would in mercy prevent, if he so please; and let all his People say, *Amen.*

Psalm 107. 43.

Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.

The End.
